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Resolution 1956-01-16 Soil Bank Modifications

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RESOLUTION NO. 1

SOIL BANK MODIFICATIONS

Whereas, the Agricultural Act of 1956 includes wildlife conservation as a specific purpose of the new Soil Bank Program, and

Whereas, the state fish and game departments, together with national conservation organizations, were instrumental in obtaining recognition of wildlife conservation as one of the specific purposes of the Soil Bank Act, and

Whereas, the Soil Bank Program can be one of the most beneficial programs of our time to wildlife and fish conservation if wildlife conservation is given a proper place in its administration, and

Whereas, officials of the Department of Agriculture have shown a tendency to regard wildlife conservation as strictly incidental in the Soil Bank Program and to relegate the state fish and game departments and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to the position of advisors rather than active participants in the Soil Bank Program as made evident by instructions issued recently by the Secretary of Agriculture for the guidance of state administrative committees, and

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners does hereby request that officials of the Department of Agriculture accord the state fish and game departments and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service their appropriate active roles in the administration of the Soil Bank Program, as contemplated by the Agriculture Act of 1956, and

That the Secretary of Agriculture be requested to modify these regulations to wit:

1. That members of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the various state wildlife departments be appointed as members of the administrative committee of each state, thus representing wildlife interests in the planning of soil bank practices in each state.
2. That wildlife practices receive eighty per cent of the total cost of establishment.
3. That wildlife practices may be contracted over a period of from 5 to 15 years in the case of woody plantings at the election of the land owner.
4. That the Secretary of Agriculture offer, to each state wildlife department, a contract under which such state department would be delegated authority to implement the provisions of the Act which deal with wildlife development and management, and reimburse such wildlife department for such service, as provided for the Forest Service.
5. That other features of the regulations, established by the Secretary of Agriculture office, dealing with establishment and management of wildlife cover, be modified as need for such modification becomes apparent, to the end that this important natural resource shall benefit from the provisions of this Act.
6. That cooperators shall not be required to repay any previously received subsidy payments in order to qualify for payment for any practice under the Conservation Reserve Program.

That the president of this association be requested to appoint a permanent Soil Bank Committee, and

That the congressional delegations of the states represented in the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners be urged to request that the Department of Agriculture give genuine consideration to the participation of state and federal wildlife agencies in the Soil Bank Program.

That the Secretary of Agriculture, the chief of the Agricultural Conservation Program Service, and other officials of the Department of Agriculture be informed of the dissatisfaction of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners with the attitude of the Department of Agriculture toward giving wildlife conservation and wildlife conservation agencies full partnership in the Soil Bank Program as contemplated by law.

RESOLUTION NO. 2

CONSERVATION COMMUNICATIONS

Whereas, the State Foresters Association at the request of the Federal Communications Commission has set up a special organization identified as the